

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 SSO-00 RSR-01 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 AID-10 EUR-10

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O R 191050 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3407

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 10972

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 19, 1973

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZED ALL PERTIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
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EMBASSY AS OF 1800 JUNE 19.

SUMMARY:

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY SETTLED INTO A MORE MODERATE PATTERN IN THIS THIRD DAY OF CEASEFIRE II. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 96 INCIDENTS REPORTED, 52 OF THEM FROM MR 4. RESULTS WERE REPORTED AS : FRIENDLY, 13 KILLED AND 127 WOUNDED; ENEMY, 120 KILLED, 19 CAPTURED OR DETAINED AND FOUR RALLIERS. WHILE THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ROSE IN MR 1, ELEMENTS OF THE EMBATTLED 78 TH RANGER BATTALION IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE WERE REPORTED S PULLING BACK AND REGAINING CONTACT WITH THE BATTALION HEADQUARTERS. MR 2 WAS RELATIVELY QUIET, INCLUDING THE AREA WEST OF KONTUM CITY, ALTHOUGH RVNAF UNITS IN THE AREA CONTINUE TO MANEUVER FOR POSITION IN ORDER TO RESUME THEIR PUSH TO REGAIN LOST TERRITORY. MR 3 WAS GENERALLY QUIET. THE FIGHTING IN THE DELTA WAS AS USUAL CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN, BUT A RESURGENCE OF ACTIVITY WAS ALSO SEEN IN DINH TUONG AND VINH LONG PROVINCES.

2. COMMENTS BY RVNAF OFFICERS CONCERNING THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE CONTINUE TO REFLECT PESSIMISM ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL PEACE. FEW BELIEVE THE COMMUNISTS ARE DOING MORE THAN PREPARING FOR ANOTHER MILITARY OFFENSIVE.

3. THE TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS DOWN IN AN LOC WERE REPORTED SCHEDULED TO BE FLOWN OUT TODAY. CANDEL SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE PRG GUARANTEES OF SAFETY FOR ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHTS MAY NOT YET BE FIRM.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. CANDEL SOURCES TELL US THAT THE PRG REFUSED TO ALLOW THIRD ICCS HELICOPTER TO FLY INTO AN LOC IN ORDER TO BRING FRESH CREWS TO HANDLE RETURN OF ORIGINAL TWO CHOPPERS GROUNDED IN ZLOC AFTER JUNE 17 INCIDENT. PRG CLAIMED " COMPLEX SITUATION " MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE SECURITY OF THIRD HELICOPTER. SINCE ICCS IS ANXIOUS TO GET ITS HELICOPTERS OUT, CREWS MIGHT FLY IN BY AIR AMERICA WHICH SUPPLY OTHER CLIENTS IN AN LOC. MEANWHILE, PRG REPS CONTINUE TO CLAIM THAT GROUND FIRE RECEIVED BY HELICOPTERS ENROUTE TO AN LOC CAME FROM ARVN FORCES.

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2. DURING COURSE OF AN LOC HELICOPTER NEGOTIATIONS JUNE 18 IN SAIGON, PRG REPS MADE STRANGE REMARK WHICH HAS CANDEL PERPLEXED. PRG SAID THAT AS OF JUNE 21 THERE WOULD BE " NO MORE SHOOTING AT ICCS AIRCRAFT ". AMONG OTHER THINGS, CANDEL WONDERS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BEFORE THAT DATE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT ICCS WILL DELIVER ITS APPROVED

BUDGET TO ALL FOUR PARTIES JUNE 20.

PART II - MR 1

1. COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED TO 18, MADE UP OF FOUR GROUND ATTACKS, 11 ABF (8 ROCKET AND 220 MORTAR ROUNDS) AND THREE HARRASSMENTS. FOUR ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED. THE FIRST VIOLATION IN SEVERAL DAYS WAS REPORTED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS; 3 RD BN, 54 REGIMENT RECEIVED ONE ABKD OF 14 MORTAR ROUNDS SOUTHWEST OF HUE. IN QUANG NAM, A LOST CO. OF 78 TH RANGERS GAINED CONTACT WITH BN HQ AND IS REGROUPING TOWARD THE BATTALION CP AT DA TRACH. DURING THE WITHDRAWAL IT RECEIVED SEVERAL ABFS. REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY FIVE KIA, 43 WIA; ENEMY TEN KIA, TWO CAPTURED, TWO RETURNEES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 468 ROUNDS, 114 NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS, 354 SOUTH.

2. REACTIONS IN MR 1 TO NEW CEASEFIRE COMMUNIQUE HAVE BEEN MIXTURE OF RELIEF AND CONTINUED APPREHENSION. COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO CONTAIN GVN TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WHICH MANY IN MR 1 HAD DIMLY FEARED AT OUTSET OF MOST RECENT ROUND OF PARIS NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME MANY WHO HAVE READ THE COMMUNIQUE SEE NO NEW PROVISIONS IN ACCORD THAT MIGHT STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE. GIVEN PROXIMITY TO NVN AND CONTINUED COMMUNIST BUILD- UP IN THE WEST, MANY MR 1 RESIDENTS ARE RELUCTANT TO TRUST IN COMMUNIST " GOOD FAITH" UPON WHICH THEY FEEL SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE ULTIMATELY HINGES. CONGEN DANANG LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS THAT SOME OF LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY REFLECT THESE APPREHENSIONS BY LACK OF BUSINESS CONFIDENCE. INTERESTINGLY, AMONG THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO APPEAR LESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE ARE SOME SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY ASPECTS OF ACCORD IN MR 1.

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3. THE FOLLOWING WAS ENTERED INTO THELOG OF THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER, BUT WAS NOT RPT NOT BRIEFED AT THE I CORPS MORNING BRIEFING JUNE 19: " MARINE TAOR: 181320 HOURS: ANTI- AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY PLATOON 1-1/2 KMS NORTHEAST OF LA VANG (YD351516), QUANG TRI OBSERVED A MIG 19 FLY FROM THE NORTHEAST, CIRCLE TWICE AT APPROXIMATELY 3000 METERS ALTITUDE OVER FRIENDLY TERRITORY, THEN FLY BACK NORTH." (CONGEN 1 HAS CONFIRMED THAT AAA PLATOON REPORT WAS
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RECEIVED, BUT HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED IF THERE WAS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE, E. G., RADAR TRACKS, OF THIS INTRUSION). ON JUNE 19, VNAF AT DANANG AIR BASE SCRABLED TWO F-5 FIGHTERS IN RESPONSE TO AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT OVER QUANG TRI. AIRCRAFT TURNED OUT TO BE A FRIENDLY LIGHT OBSERVATION WHICH WAS OFF- COURSE. HEIGHTENED RESPONSE OF VNAFON JUNE 19 MAY BE RESULT OF EXTRA ALERT DUE TO REPORT OF MIG INTRUSION ON JUNE 18.

PART III - MR 2

1. REGION 2 REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM FOR PAST 24- HOUR PERIOD, REPORTING TOTAL OF 11 INCIDENTS INCLUDING SIX ABF, TWO MININGS, TWO GROUND ATTACKS, AND ONE FIREFIGHT BETWEEN RVNAF UNIT ON PATROL AND ENEMY. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE QUITE HIGH WHILE REPORTED RVNAF CASUALTIES REMAINED LOW: NVA/ VC: 43 KIA; RVNAF: ONE KIA AND FIVE WIA.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT SINGLE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN PHU CU PASS

AREA OF HOAI NHON DISTRICT, BINH DINH EARLY MORNING JUNE 19. POLOFF REPORTS THAT AN ARVN COMPANY WAS HIT WITH ABF BY AN UNIDENTIFIED VC FORCE. FIRE ATTACK WAS FOLLOWED BY ARVN REACTION. RESULTS: 37 VC KIA, 19 WEAPONS CAPTURED; ONE ARVN KIA AND ONE WIA. THOUGH CASUALTY IMBALANCE SUGGESTS ARVN MIGHT HAVE INITIATED THE INCIDENT, GVN REPORTING SINCE JANUARY 28 TYPICALLY DESCRIBES ALL INCIDENTS AS ENEMY INITIATED.

3. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS RELATIVE QUIET AT THE MOMENT, ALTHOUGH MORE GVN REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO PROVINCE AND POSITIONED FOR WHAT IS HOPED TO BE LAST BIG PUSH TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE. A BN OF THE 44 TH REGT REPORTEDLY MADE LITTLE FORWARD PROGRESS AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE IN AREA ABOUT FOUR KM EAST OF VILLAGE. MEANWHILE, ABOUT 7 KM TO THE SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA THE RF, SUPPORTED BY HEAVY TACAIR AND ARTILLERY, HAVE REPORTEDLY RETAKEN HALF OF PLEI KLOR HAMLET.

4. BINH DINH DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER, LTCOL NGUYEN MANH TUONG, DOUBTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE FOR LONG AND BELIEVES THEY AGREED TO THE NEW CEASEFIRE DOCUMENT MERELY TO GAIN TIME TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ATTACKS. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, TUONG ALSO IMPLIED THAT ANOTHER REASON FOR THE COMMUNISTS' AGREEMENT WAS TO PREVENT FURTHER GVN ENCROACHMENTS.

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HE SAID THAT HIS ORDERS FROM SAIGON WERE TO RESPECT THE CEASEFIRE AND THAT GVN PLANS FOR RETAKING THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF PHU MY DISTRICT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.

5. TUONG ALSO SAID THAT ORDERS FROM SAIGON STATE THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE IN BINH DINH ALLOWED TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY ARE THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND THE DIVISION COMMANDER, THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE AND ARTICLE 4 OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE CEASEFIRE NOTWITHSTANDING. HE SAID THIS ORDER WAS TO THWART THE VC IF THEY AGAIN TRY THEIR JANUARY TACTIC OF DISPATCHING HIGHER LEVEL CADRE TO THE FRONT LINE TO FRATERNIZE AND MISLEAD THE LESS IDEOLOGICALLY PREPARED GVN TROOPS.

PART IV - MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL IN 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 19, CONCENTRATED MAINLY IN TAY NINH AND IN PHUOC TUY - BINH TUY. THERE WERE 15 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING SIX ABFS, SIX GROUND CONTACTS, ONE SMALL ARMS HARASSMENT, AND THREE MININGS. ONE RVNAF WAS REPORTED KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED, WHILE VC/NVA LOSSES WERE 11 KILLED, SOME EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES CAPTURED, AND TWO SOUTHERN VC CADRE RALLIED.

2. MR 3 G-2 WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED AN RF COMPANY 20 KM S OF TAN LINH DISTRICT SEAT,

BINH TUY, BUT THE ATTACK WAS DRIVEN OFF WITHOUT RF CASUALTIES WHILE COMMUNISTS LOST FIVE KIA, ONE 61 MM MORTAR AND 11 ROUNDS OF AMMO, ONE AK-47, AND 40 KILOS OF RICE. CONGEN COMMENT: THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN RF ATTACK ON A COMMUNIST BASE AREA. END COMMENT.

3. BINH DUONG RRO REPORTS AFTERNOON JUNE 18 THAT HE HEARD 150 ROUNDS OF OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE MORNING JUNE 17, BUT PROVINCE OFFICIALS AND 5 TH DIV STAFF WOULDN' T TELL HIM WHAT IT IS. BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL. TRAN VAN CUA HAS VIRTUALLY SHUT OFF AMERICAN ACCESS TO THIS PROVINCE AND SECTOR STAFFS. A XENOPHOBIC ANTI- COMMUNIST, CUA BEGAN RESTRICTING ACCESS SOON AFTER THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, AND HE HAS BECOME EVEN MORE ALOOF SINCE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THOSE OFFICERS WHO WILL TALK SPECULATE THAT CUA IS ALSO AFRAID THAT THE AMERICANS WILL DISCOVER HIS CORRUPTION, BUT IN THE BINH DUONG RRO' S JUDGMENT CUA IS NO WORSE IN THIS RESPECT THAN MOST PROVINCE CHIEFS.

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4. GVN TPJMC V REP WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TELL CONSUL JUNE 18 WHAT NEW INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED AT A SAIGON MEETING OF GVN TPJMC REGIONAL REPS. BUT GENERALLY HE DID NOT EXUDE ANY NEW HOPE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE' S TPJMC PROVISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE GVN HAS HAD THE PRG REGIONAL AND TEAM SITES READY SINCE JANUARY, BUT THE COMMUNIQUE' S REFERENCE TO OTHER POSSIBLE SITES WOULD PROVIDE THE PRG WITH YET ANOTHER PRETEXT TO DELAY DEPLOYMENT WHILE NEGOTIATING ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE SITES.

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USDAO SAIGON
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5. GVN REP EXPLAINED GVN POSITION ON MEETINGS OF OPPOSING LOCAL
COMMANDERS AS ONE OF CONCERN WITH PROPER SEQUENCE-- THAT IS, HIGH-
RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS SHOULD FIRST MEET WITH COUNTERPARTS TO
ARRANGE BROAD OUTLINES OF MODALITIES FOR AVOIDING CLASHES OF
OPPOSING
FORCES, WHICH COULD THEN BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL AT LOWER LEVEL,
IF NECESSARY, UNDER PROPER GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM HIGHER
LEVELS
AND WITH PARTICIPATION OF TPJMC.
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6. ICCS V CANDEL TOLD CONSUL EVENING JUNE 18 THAT RETURN OF ICCS
HELICOPTERS FROM AN LOC, WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED SINCE JUNE 17
AWAITING PRG GUARANTEES TO AVOID ANOTHER SHOOTING INCIDENT, IS NOW
SCHEDULED FOR 1600 TODAY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CBS NEW TEAM ALONG
ON
JUNE 16 FLIGHT GOT EXCELLENT PICTURES OF HUNGEL V CHIER LTC VARGA
SCRAMBLING FOR COVER WHEN HELICOPTER TOOK GROUND FIRE. HUNGARIANS
WHO COMPLAINED AT LENGTH TO CONSUL JUNE 16 ABOUT BAD PRESS THEIR
ICCS PERFORMANCE HAS RECEIVED, SHOULD BE EVEN UNHAPPIER WHEN THIS
FLICKERS ACROSS THE SCREEN.

PART V - MR 4

1. MR 4 REPORTED 52 VC/ MVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 18, A SLIGHT
INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS DAY'S 45. AMONG THESE WERE FIVE GROUND

ASSAULTS, 37 ABF, EIGHT HARASSMENTS, AND TWO ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE; AND THE RVNAF ALSO MOUNTED 12 " SECURITY OPERATIONS". DINH TUONG AND CHUONG THIEN SAW THE MOST ACTION. GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST SIX KILLED AND 71 WOUNDED, WHILE CLAIMING 56 VC/ NVA DEAD AND 17 DETAINED.

2. CHUONG THIEN SECTOR REPORTED 44 INCIDENTS JUNE 18, A FIGURE THAT EXCLUDED CONTACTS BY ARVN DIVISION FORCES. (SECTOR ROUTINELY BRIEFS MORE INCIDENTS THAN DOES CORPS). SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CLASHES, WITH UNDETERMINED CASUALTIES, TOOK PLACE IN DUC LONG AND LONG MY DISTRICTS. A NUMBER OF OUTPOSTS WITHIN THREE KMS OF VI THANH WERE UNDER VC MORTAR ATTACK AT 1015 HOURS JUNE 19. THE AMERICAN PROV REP, JUST RETURNED FROM TWO- WEEK LEAVE, OBSERVED THAT THINGS LOOKED ABOUT THE SAME AS WHEN HE LEFT THE PROVINCE EXCEPT THAT THE VC WERE " GETTING AHEAD."

3. IN DINH TUONG, THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES IN THE CENTER OF THE PROVINCE MAKES FIGHTING ALMOST INEVITABLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE LOCAL GVN COMMANDERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY MR 4 TO ARRANGE CEASEFIRES AND TO DELIMIT TERRITORY. ALTHOUGH FIGHTING IS SOMEWHAT LESS INTENSE THAN DURING THE HIGH POINT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE PATTERN OF COMBAT REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT DURING CEASEFIRE I: SMALL UNIT ACTIONS, BOOBY- TRAPS, AND VC/ NCA MORTARING OF GVN OUTPOSTS. AS USUAL, THE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN CAI LAY, CAI BE, AND SAM GIANG DISTRICTS.

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4. FIGHTING IN VINH LONG HAS INCREASED SINCE THE CEASEFIRE TOOK EFFECT JUNE 15. BOTH GVN " SECURITY OPERATIONS" AND VC/ NVA INCIDENTS ARE UP. TWO HAMLETS CONTROLLED BY THE GVN BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, AP NHUT IN TRA ON DISTRICT AND DONG HOA IN BINH MINH DISTRICT, ARE NOW UNDER NVCCONTROL OR ARE HEAVILY CONTESTED. VINH LONG GVN OFFICIALS TOLD THE INTERPROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE THERE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NAIVE IF IT BELIEVES CEASEFIRE II WILL CURB VC MILITARY ACTIVITY.

5. KIEN GIANG REPORTS INCREASED FIGHTING SINCE JUNE 15 ALONG THE VC/ NVA INFILTRATION CORRIDOR IN NORTHERN KIEN GIANG. SMALL UNIT CONTACTS OCCUR DAILY. ONE OF THE SHARPEST TOOK PLACE JUNE 17 IN KIEN LUONG DISTRICT. A PLATOON OF AN RF COMPANY ENGAGED A VC UNIT AND LOST SIX WOUNDED AND ONE MISSING.

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